

**STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES (SUSI)
FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS**

INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION:

The Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) for Secondary School Educators will provide two multinational groups of 30 secondary educators each (classroom teachers, teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, ministry of education officials, etc.) with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture, past and present. It will take place over the course of six weeks beginning in mid June 2010.

The programs will be organized around a central theme or themes in U.S. civilization and will have a strong contemporary component. Through a combination of traditional, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, the programs will elucidate the history and evolution of U.S. educational institutions and values. The programs also serve to illuminate contemporary political, social, and economic debates in American society.

The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to improve the quality of teaching about the United States in secondary schools and other academic institutions abroad.

Pending approval, one institute will take place at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** and the **second institute will take place at a site to be determined**. Specific program information will be posted on the ECA website as soon as it becomes available. In the meantime, prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the website to obtain general information about the Institutes at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/academicexchanges/scholars.html>

OTHER ESSENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

A. Program Funding: Through grants to the host institutions, the Department of State (Embassy) will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, domestic travel and ground transportation, housing and subsistence, book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances. The Embassy will also pay international travel costs of the participants.

B. Housing and Meal Arrangements: Typically, participants will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute, and will have to share a hotel room during the study tour (up to two weeks).

Housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own.

C. Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of \$50,000 with a \$25 deductible for the duration of the program. Pre-existing conditions are not covered.

D. Program Requirements and Restrictions: Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings.

Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program.

Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that this is an intensive institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program.

CANDIDATE DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 25-50, highly-motivated and experienced secondary school educators. The ideal candidate will be a secondary teacher, teacher trainer, curriculum developer, textbook writer, ministry of education official, or other related professional with responsibility for secondary education who is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into his/her curricula.
- B. The ideal candidate will also be an experienced professional with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for education professionals in U.S. studies. In this respect, while the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, an equally important factor is how participation in the institute will enhance course offerings in U.S. studies at the nominee's home institution.
- C. Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior educators are eligible applicants, first consideration will be given to younger and mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule.

OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Nominations will be reviewed by the Education and Cultural Affairs Bureau program staff in Washington. The Embassy will be notified regarding selection or non-selection of candidates in the end of March.

Candidate Statement: In order to get a better sense of potential participants' motivations and goals, it is requested that each candidate provide a short personal statement (one page) indicating why he or she is interested in participating in the program and what he or she expects to get out of the experience.

English Language Ability: It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute, both for your participant and participants from other countries.

Priority Consideration: Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarship, accomplishments, and professional duties.

APPLICATION FORMAT:

A Title of Institute

B. Nominees Full Name: Nominees names should match his/her passport and should be presented in the following order: Prefix (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss), Last Name(s), First Name, Middle Name.

C. Gender

D. Date of Birth (please spell out Month, Day, Year)

E. Birth City

F. Birth Country

G. Country(ies) of Citizenship: Primary and, if applicable, secondary country

H. Country of Residence

I. Medical, Physical, Dietary or other Personal Considerations: Please describe any pre-existing medical conditions, including any prescription medication the candidate maybe taking, or any other dietary or personal considerations. This will not affect candidate selection, but will enable the host institution to make any necessary accommodations.

J. Candidate Contact Information: Home Address, City, Home State/Province, Home Country, E-mail, and Telephone.

K. Current Position/Title, Institutional Name, and Country

L. Work Experience, including previous positions and titles

M. Education, and Academic and Professional Training, including degree earned and fields of specialization. Degrees listed should reflect the closest U.S. equivalent.

N. Active Professional Memberships

O. Publications: Publications should include the publication year, type of publication, title, and publisher. All foreign titles should be translated into English. (Please list no more than 10.)

P. Previous Experience in the United States: Please list all trips the candidate has made to the United States and include approximate dates and the reason for travel.

Q. Family Residing in the United States: Please list any immediate family members who currently are residing in the United States, including city and state.

R. Evidence of English Fluency (e.g. personal interview, test score, etc.)

S. Please answer this questions to help justify your application:

- 1- What is the current or projected extent of the U.S. Studies content of the course(s) and materials being taught or developed by you?
- 2- 2 -What is the relevance of this program to your professional responsibilities?
- 3- What would be the impact of your participation on a greater understanding of American society and/or culture at your home institution (in terms of enhanced teaching and curricula, etc.)?

T. Personal Statement: In an essay no longer than one page the candidates should describe why they wish to participate in a Study of the U.S. Institute. They should describe how their participation would contribute to their general professional development and their teaching of U.S. Studies (for example: enhanced knowledge/expertise, new curriculum ideas, career advancement, publications, networking opportunities). How might they share their experience with others at home both in their institution and community? What else should we know about them?